Off the FKC

1.

First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest

Officers Retreat

May 18-19, 1990

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SESSION 1

Introduction:

traditional (for me)

one thing others don't know about you.

Purpose: "retreat"

You need it on Fri. night.

Never certain what outside expert is supposed to bring,

organizational expertise?

not relevant

homletical expertise?

You have already have it.

Much simpler - how about -

an opportunity for refreshment and recreation.

Your/my body needs that regularly

-so does your spirit.

Busy people don't do it much.

Spiritual recreation includes

public worship - but also

quieter disciplines -

- listening

remembering

meditating

praying

conversing

and so that is what I propose we do - change from "output" to "input" mode. : need to give yourself permission

purpose + meaning is in (output) — telephone in restaurant with pad in pocket at Jungham

1. Listen for a word from the Lord -

in Scripture

in words + lives of others - literature

in your own life

meditation, remembering.

→ Keep a retreat journal, away from other notes-

dates, times.

2. Praying

(3) Talking to each other

Our framework will be Scripture - 3 passages

I got involved because these three Old Testament passages showed up in subsequent works in lectionary... Gen Ex 1 Sam

as I thought about them I began to see story of God's people in history as a metaphor for God's people now - the church now

- and -

a metaphor for individual life -

after all - what we profess to believe as Christians - is not so much in a creator God which is basic but no big deal theologically (almost everyone else comes to the same conclusion)

but - that the creator has to do with the creation - with us.

and that we have a clue as to the nature of that relationship by looking at the record - the witness of the people... the family album.

Also, we have a direction as to the current

state of the relationship in our own lives - -

- "spiritual pilgrimages

(modest as they may be - the assertion is that we - each - are on one)

Buechner material here

Bible Study Genesis 12 : 1 -] Open to Genesis (Backdrop)

The primal, formative Bible story

Creation Epic - Babylon (1-11) - A + E, Garden

continues through C. & A. ~~Eden~~ / jealousy

descendents

Noah and flood + ark

covenant/ ~~Rainbow~~

more descendents

~~Town~~ Tower of Babel

more descendents

Chapter 12 - Abraham - where the story really begins.

Terah - Abraham's father, took his family from ~~Ur~~ of the Chaldeans to Canaan - stopped

short at Haran.

Read 12:1-7

(An Adventure)

-unlikely, can you imagine the day Abraham and Sarah explain to neighbors

Theological assertions in this passage:

-after God the Creator,

-this is a God not content with status quo -

calls people to move.

first hint of a God - who has a built-in suspicion of human institutions, particularly those with buildings!

Note - the Barrenness - The human story is in sad state after Eden, Flood + Babel

Abraham and Sarah are end of line - she's barren - a shame - and his family is about to die out.

how else describe barrenness? ...

life without purpose or passion

putting in time, waiting to die

the promise is newness, possibility - if they will trust and move.

This assertion ~~brings~~ dumps into our traditional

sense that God is located in past and in stability, institutional permanence.

-here, the suggestion is that God likes change, stirs up change.

-and faith - is here defined as hearing God's call and acting on it - obeying it.

Contemp. Social change is so persuasive that a reaction has set in - a clinging to past..

-nostalgia in advertising

-Alvin Toffler's Personal Stability Zones

-in religion, celebrating - childhood images, memories -

theme is consistent throught Bible and appears dramatically in the call of the disciples.

Follow me

as I studied this passage - I found I.B. ~~community.~~ tell about Peggy and her ~~friends~~ & her burden.

underlined this passage - comment on Genesis 12

"Faith is not the anchor but the hoisted sail. It is not the ship in harbor but the ship that puts

out to sea. It is not holding onto something that is but exploration and adverture toward something vaster that lies ahead."

Private - Journal Time

-where are you hearing the voice of God in your life? 10

-To what is God calling your church?

-you and your family?

-you, personally?

Discussion (3's) 10

Closing Prayer

Read Mark 1:16-20